

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 15 and 17 have been amended. Claim 16 has been cancelled. Claims 7, 9-15, 17 and 18 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM OBJECTION

Claim 18 was objected to because of the limitation "the contacting member" did not have antecedent basis. The base claim of claim 18 has been amended to recite "a contacting member."

Withdrawal of the foregoing objection is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 15 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki (JP 05-197254) in view of Mori et al. (JP 2001-228551).

Claim 15 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 16 and is therefore now believed to be in a condition for allowance. Claim 18 depends on claim 15 and is therefore believed to be allowable for the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that claims 7 and 9-14 have been allowed and claims 16 and 17 have been found to contain allowable subject matter. Claim 16 has been cancelled. It is respectfully submitted that claim 17 is allowable in its present form.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: April 27, 2007

By: / Gregory W. Harper /
Gregory W. Harper
Registration No. 55,248

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501